

Reasons to Believe in an Historical Adam and Eve

Theological Reasons to Believe in an Historical Adam and Eve

- Scripture presents a coherent metanarrative of Creation, Fall, Redemption and New Creation. Take away any of these points and the story is lost.
- Romans 5 and I Corinthians 15 emphasize the first Adam's disobedience, resulting in human death, and Jesus Christ as the second Adam, bestowing eternal life and forgiveness of sin on all who believe.
- If Adam is not an historical, literal person, the Apostle Paul's argument for the universality of sin and the necessity of Christ's sacrifice is undermined.
- The doctrine of humanity's fall is essential in answering the problem of pain. Otherwise, God must somehow be the source of evil, which undermines God's goodness.
- The genealogy of Christ in Luke 3 goes back to Adam, emphasizing Christ's humanity.
- Jesus references an historical Adam in His teachings on marriage and divorce (Mark 10:6-9 and Matthew 19:4-6).

Practical Reasons to Believe in an Historical Adam and Eve

- A common genealogical ancestor of all human beings is essential in recognizing our common humanity, destroying any possibility for racism or nationalism.
- Belief in Adam and Eve sets us apart from the animal kingdom, ensuring we understand human worth and sanctity of life.
- Humanity is so different socially, cognitively, spiritually and physically from any other life form. It makes logical sense that we are special creations.



Different Models About Adam and Eve

ADAM AND EVE AS RECENT ANCESTORS

This view holds that Adam and Eve were special creations of God in the past 10,000 years or so, probably in the Middle East as Neolithic farmers. This belief system seems in accordance with the Biblical narrative.

ADAM AND EVE AS ANCIENT ANCESTORS

This view holds that Adam and Eve were special creations of God earlier in time (perhaps 100,000 years ago) and lived in East Africa, where many anthropologists believe humanity originated. This belief system accords with secular science. But it presents questions about the integrity of Biblical genealogies and why God would allow so many generations to go by without a clear revelation to mankind.

Resources to Learn More

Mortenson, T. (2016). Searching for Adam : Genesis & the truth about man's origin (First edition). Master Books. *Young earth creationist view.*

Rana, F., & Ross, H. (2015). Who was Adam? : a creation model approach to the origin of man (Second expanded edition. 10-year update). RTB Press. *Old earth creationist view.*

Swamidass, S. J. (2019). The genealogical Adam & Eve : the surprising science of universal ancestry. IVP Academic. *A look at how even some evolutionists are coming to terms with an historical Adam figure.*

Versteeg, J. P., & Gaffin, R. B. (2012). Adam in the New Testament : mere teaching model or first historical man? (Second edition). P & R Publishing. *Provides a theological argument for a literal Adam and Eve.*

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.
- Romans 5:12

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22

